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Title: Reported case of caste bias in AIIMS.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this age of knowledge explosion − this is a post modern age − in this 21st Century, when boundaries of all sorts are evaporating and discriminatory trend of the middle ages are a thing of the past, allegations that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students were facing caste discrimination in various forms in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences been confirmed by an Inquiry Committee headed by the UGC Chairman Shri Sukhdeo Thorat. This is shameful and deprecatory.

Here is a clear case where untouchability was practised by the faculty of India's premier medical institute. When students perceive that they are avoided

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* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

and indifferent attitude are shown towards them by the faculty because of their caste background and biases and unfairness were meted out to them in the evaluation of their performance in theory papers as well as in practical tests, it is high time, Sir, to take stringent action against the culprits as such behaviour is unlawful and unconstitutional.

I urge upon the Government to enforce objective tests to overcome some of the attitudinal problems of the faculty and internal evaluations be done in a more transparent manner.

Institutionalising caste discrimination and abetting the anti-quota agitation by unlawful exercise of powers as the Institute Director is a slur on the reputation of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Playing a provocative role is very unbecoming on the part of the Director. I urge upon the Government to take exemplary action at the earliest.

Thank you.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BIRBHUM): Sir, I would also like to speak on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you given a notice?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can only associate. That is all. You cannot speak now.

Now, Shri P. Karunakaran.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, I would like to add one more point. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak only one sentence.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, a very shameful and agonizing development has happened in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, which is a premier medical institute in our country. It is reported in a national daily yesterday about the Report of an Inquiry Committee which was formed by the Government to inquire about the allegations.

Sir, the fact-finding Committee headed by Prof. S. Thorat pointed so many caste discriminations, humiliation, abuse, and threatening of SC, ST and OBC students. As pointed out by my colleague, even in the evaluation of their examination papers, they have been discriminated.

I urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, to place the Thorat Committee Report on the Table of the House and also to take stringent action against the errant administrative Head of the Institute and the delinquent faculty members who are responsible for such type of caste discrimination committed on the Backward Class students. This is my submission. Thank you very much. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Aaron Rashid, you can associate on this issue, if you want.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (PERIYAKULAM): Sir, I would like to associate on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those who have given notice on this issue can associate.

Now, Shri P. Karunakaran.